To: Jim Garrison, District Attorney October 4, 1967

From: Bill Turner

Subject: Information on the Minutemen from Jerry Milton Brooks

Last night I was put in phone contact with Brooks, who is the defector from the Minutemen whose tapes you have. I had previously mentioned to you that Brooks had called me from East St. Louis, Illinois early last winter. At that time he was on the run from Kansas City after testifying against the Minutemen leader Robert Bolivar DePugh, in a federal firearms trial. It turns out that I lost contact with Brooks because he was kidnapped from East St. Louis by MM. He went on a Hannibal, Mo. TV station to say that the reason he testified against DePugh is that the FBI had threatened to put him in a mental institution. After that, he was taken at gunpoint to Spokane, Wash., and thence to Cold Creek Canyon, Colorado. (You may recall a couple of weeks ago there was an AP story, originating with the Denver Post, about the discovery of a large MM training grounds there.) Brooks says he "escaped" and told the story to the Post because the FBI wasn't interested. However, I gradually drew from him the admission that his custody by the MM was not wholly involuntary. My evaluation of him is a man who will go wherever the action is, but at the same time he has an encyclopedic memory and I believe what he tells us is accurate. During out conversation, I constantly fed him items in which he could have been a hero with a yes answer; when he doesn't know something he flatly says so.

The following is the essential part of what he told me on the phone last night. I have a tape recording of the first 20 minutes, before the tape ran out, which can be transcribed.

In 1961, Brooks, at the time a militant anti-Communist, came to New Orleans and stayed with his step-father at 1707 Jackson St. He looked up the Anti-Communism League of the Carribean and went to see its "general counsel," Maurice Brooks Gatlin, in the Claiborne Towers. Gatlin sent him over to Guy Banister's on Lafayette Place, where he worked without pay as a private investigator mainly doing research on Communist matters. Hugh F. Ward was Banister's associate, and both were MM, as was Gatlin. While working at Banister's, he went to see Sergio Arcacha Smith on "numerous occasions" on matters of mutual interest. He also knew David Ferrie, who was connected with Banister, but he does not know much specific about him. Brooks got the impression most of the hangers-on at Banister's were "fruitys." There was another investigator there, a man about 50 and 6'2" who was named Joe, an Anglo. Brooks did not know a Joseph Moore, nor any Cubans, with one exception. He did know Fernando Fernandez, a Cuban exile who is now in prison in the U.S.---the FBI knows this, he says---and who is mentioned in the Warren Report as somehow con-

nected with Oswald. He said that towards the end of 1962, he went to a MM meeting with Fernandez and with Morris Tannahill, who is also a Rockwell Nazi (N.B. Tannahill is the man who conceived the idea of assassination of Senator Fulbright; as I pointed out to you on my recent trip, he is referred to in the volumes of the WR). Regarding the Fulbright matter, Brooks said that Kenneth Graham, aka Ethal Goldblatt, 207 E 31st St, Kansas City, and Elmer A. Gould, 4900 Old Pike, KCMO, were in on the planning. He said that Dwight Seits, a KC Minuteman, contributed $50; his ex-wife, Gloria Seits, gave a statement to this effect to the Secret Service, and ADL, and Gil Ryan, a Missouri Congressman. Seits can be located through a shirt-tail relative, Dr. Earl B. Conover of Kansas City. Brooks also said that Sue Eastman, a sister of Frank MCGehee, who founded the National Indignation Committee in Dallas, was in on it. He advised that Sue Eastman now lives in either Dallas or Frisco, Texas, and her married name is Stacey. He claims that Harry Jones of the Kansas City Star recently located her by phone. Brooks said that the Fulbright assassination plan called for Tannahill to escape by meeting a guy in Okalhoma or Texas who would fly an escape plane.

Brooks recalled that the investigators around Banister's office had radio cars and packed rods. He said he put DePugh in touch with Banister. He said his association with Banister stretched from 1961 to early 1964, although the last couple of years he was traveling back and forth between New Orleans and Norborne, Missouri, where he served as an aide to DePugh.

Regarding Maurice Brooks Gatlin. Brooks said that although Banister was lcaonic and never discussed violence, Gatlin seemed to take him into his confidence. "Stick with me---I'll give you the license to kill," Brooks quotes Gatlin. Brooks interprets this as government protection, namely CIA. Gatlin was a CIA operative, he claims. I asked him how he knew. Well, for one thing, Brooks once told Gatlin a New York Communist was going to Peking and should be stopped. Gatlin picked up the phone, made a couple of calls, and sure enought the man was stopped. Broosk advised that Gatlin travled all over the world, and his passport was proof. He was close to Somoza of Nicaraugua, and Somoza was a member of the Anti-Communism League of the Carribean. He said that Gatlin was in Caba in 1959 at the same time as Ruby. Gatlin knew Castor, as well as many Latin America big shots. He said that when Gatlin got wind that Ruby was going to send 100 jeeps to Castro, he got in touch with Ruby and had it called off because by this time Gatlin sensed that Castro was a Communist.

Brooks stated that Gatlin knew Joseph Kennedy in a rounBabout way, via Charlie Lewin, publisher of the New Bedford Standard-Times. Gatlin was the grandson of the inventor of the Gatling gun, but dropped the "g." He also was friendly with Ross Barnett.

Brooks stated that Gatlin admired The Mob, and was the behind-the-scenes attorney who handled the return of Carlos Marcello from Guatamala. Somoza would know something about that. He said Gatlin had access to a MM goon squad which rubbed out people. His contact was a man named Miller, aka "The Sheriff," who lived on Esplanade.

Regarding Gatlin and CIA. Brooks said Gatlin had connections to get people in and out of the country without the formalities of Immigration. He believes Gatlin's main function with CIA was as a transporter of money. He said Gatlin in 1961 or 1962 had $100,000 which he took to Paris for a righ-wing clique that was going to assassinate General DeGualle. His passport is stamped "Paris" for that trip. Brooks said Gatlin was in constant fear of his life, and was surprised to hear he had died in Panama.

Brooks said that one time Gatlin wanted him to go down to the Havana Bar to do some checking but that he didn't go. He said there is a hardware palce in New Orleans that supposedly supplied the guns that did in Trujillo, but he could not reconcile this in terms of MM politics since Trujillo was a dictator.

Regarding miscellaneous matters. Cindra Melville, DePugh's private secretary, is from Dallas and probably has relatives there. Brooks in 1962 met a bunch of MM from Dallas and McAllen, Texas ("Boy, there're miltant there.") who came to KCMO and gathered at the home of Sue Eastman. He was not introduced by name, and could only recognize them by sight.

I asked him about MM using church cover. He knew of one instance, the Victoria Tabernacle in KCMO run by the Rev. H. W. Barnett. Recently Ned Touchstone of the NSRP and Richard Cotten, the California MM radio broadcaster, were there.

I feel that this telepone conversation with Brooks has only scratched the surface. He is the kind of person it is necesssary to sit down with for hours and discuss specifics. I think it would be advantageous for your office to question him. If someone is going to Kansas City, fine. Otherwise, perhaps you could bring him down to New Orleans.

However, time is of the essence. Brooks will be leaving shortly for Alaska; at least this is his present idea. He is currently floating around Kansas City trying to avoid the MM. You can get in touch with him through Laird Wilcox, P. O. Box 1832, KCMO, telephone JE 1-1345. Wilcox is entirely trustworthy. He formerly published the Kansas Free Press and was my original entree to Brooks. N.B.: Wilcox intimated that Brooks is trying to avoid Harry Jones of the KC Star, so please honor his privacy. Also, Wilcox said he saw Roy Frankhausen, top man in the KKK and MM in Pennsylvania, with DePugh recently. Frankhausen's house is were Burros committed suicide. Also, Rich Lauchli is in the pen in Terre Haute on a five-year gun rap.